

THE SHELTER DISH

The Animal Services Division of the Fairfax County Police Department

Fall/Winter 2004 Edition



Inside this issue



- It's a Boy!: Scooby's Story**
.....Page 4
- Volunteer Program Information**
.....Page 6
- Where are they now?**
.....Page 8
- Get to Know Volunteer Susie Cooper.....**Page 11
- Pet of the Month.....**Page 12

Welcome to *The Shelter Dish*, the newsletter of the Fairfax County Animal Services Division!

Inside, you will find everything you would need to know about the Fairfax County Police Department's Animal Services Division.

Don't forget to get your 2005 Fairfax County Dog License!

Licenses are on sale now at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and the Fairfax County Government Center.

Licenses are \$5 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$10 for intact dogs.

Don't forget to purchase your Fairfax County Dog License!

Fairfax County dog licenses must be purchased annually. Please bring your rabies certificate and proof of sterilization. Licenses can be purchased at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter or at the Government Center. Licenses can also be purchased by mail to either location. License fees are \$5.00 for sterile dogs and \$10.00 for fertile dogs.

County of Fairfax, Virginia
Department of Tax Administration
12000 Government Center, Suite 225, Fairfax, VA 22035
(703) 222-8234

Dog License
Expires Dec. 31, _____

For Enclosed:
Fertile Dog: \$10.00
Sterile/Neutered Dog: \$5.00
Please include a current certificate of rabies vaccination and, if applicable, a current sterilization certificate.

Owner Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Town/Post Office: _____ Zip Code: _____

License Number: _____
Issue Date: _____
Expiration Date: _____

Color: _____
Breed: _____
Sex: _____
Age: _____
Telephone: _____
Home: _____

Have you ever licensed this dog before in Fairfax County? ☐ Y ☐ N

LICENSE NOT SUBJECT TO EXCHANGE, TRANSFER, OR REDEMPTION.
County Ordinance 411-2-390 requires that this license be carefully preserved by the licensee and presented upon request of the Animal Services or other officer.

Valid only if stamped PAID by Department of Tax Administration

You can see animals available for adoption on Adopt-A-Pet on County Cable Channel 16.

Sundays, Mondays and Fridays-
2:30PM

Thursdays- 8:30PM

Saturdays- 6:30PM



Shelter Wish List

- Towels or Small Blankets
- Newspaper
- Food (canned and dry), Treats
- Toys, Leashes, Collars, Dishes, Crates, Cages
- Small Animal Supplies (Rabbit, Bird, Guinea Pig, Hamster cages, & foods)

Adventures in Outlook

From: FCASD Volunteer
To: Volunteer Coordinator
Subject: Remember the Bulldog?

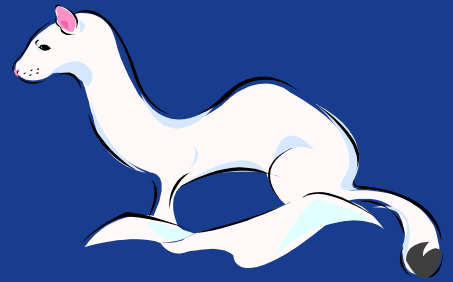
Sent: Fri 12/3/2004 4:04PM

The cute, young one who made funny noises and played with trees outside? He was at the shelter a few weeks ago and despite being a darn good-looking bulldog, his owners never came to get him.

Well, I saw him at the dog park today. His name is Bourbon, he snores <duh>, sleeps in bed with his owners, and they are absolutely in love with him. He is still a doll and had a blast playing with all the other dogs. Doncha' just love chance encounters like that?

:)

Did You Know?



The ferret is a member of the weasel family. There are two types of ferrets: domestic and black-footed. Domestic ferrets are descendants of the European polecat, which was found throughout Europe in ancient times. Black-footed ferrets, who are native to western North America, are extremely rare and are currently classified as an endangered species.

Domestic ferrets vary in coat color—ranging from dark to light shades. They are generally 17 to 24 inches long, with females usually shorter than males. Ferrets normally weigh between one and five-and-a-half pounds.

Ferrets have short digestive cycles, which prevents them from obtaining adequate nutrition from vegetable proteins. Therefore, a primary requirement in their diets is animal protein.

The length of gestation for a ferret is approximately 42 days. The average litter size ranges from six to nine kits. Born without fur, kits begin to develop fur by nine days of age. They possess a full coat within four or five weeks. At six to eight weeks, the kits are weaned. The life span of a domesticated ferret ranges from five to six years in the laboratory and up to ten years as a companion animal.

Copyright © 2004 The Humane Society of the United States. All rights reserved.

“Don’t accept your dog’s admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.”

~Ann Landers



“You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, ‘My God, you’re right! I never would’ve thought of that!’”

~ Dave Barry

Scooby's Story:

From a Rebel to "The Man's" Best Friend

Fairfax County Police Department welcomes its newest addition, a 45 pound baby boy

On October 20, 2004, the Canine (K-9) Section of the Fairfax County Police Department received its third bloodhound, and the generous donor was none other than FCPD's Animal Services Division. Scooby, whose original name was Rebel, is a red male bloodhound who was 25 weeks old at the time of his adoption by MPO Jim Greeves.



MPO Greeves with Scooby

Scooby was surrendered to the Animal Services Division on October 12 for essentially being a bloodhound. His surrender profile read, "likes dogs, plays well with kids, likes riding in car, previously kept indoors, housebroken, noisy, walks on a leash, playful, needs a lot of exercise, barks when left alone, energetic, friendly, easygoing, crate trained, pulls hard on leash, too much for apartment, still a pup- just needs training." All of these qualities together convinced Lt. Cindy McAlister, Assistant Commander of the Animal Services Division that Scooby needed to be assessed by the K-9 Section.

"We had recently set plans to host a 'Selecting and Understanding Working Dogs' class at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy when Scooby was surrendered. I knew we had added two bloodhounds to the department in the summer of 2003, so I immediately contacted Lt. Pat Ronan of the K-9 section to see if he was interested," said Lt. McAlister.

The K-9 Section is part of the department's Operations Support Bureau along with the Helicopter Section, the Tactical Team and the Motor Squad among others. The K-9 Section which was founded in 1972 has 11 officers and two supervisors as well as 13 german



PFC Thielen with Molly

shepherds (GSDs) and two bloodhounds. Charger and Molly are the first two bloodhounds in the department's history. The two year-old littermates were born in Canada but now reside with their handlers, Lt. Ronan and PFC Marshall Thielen respectively. According to Lt. Ronan, "the members of the K-9 Section have made several apprehensions lately on burglaries, robberies, and have been helpful on the latest homicide in Mt. Vernon."

Scooby's evaluation included a series of work simulations with Lt. Ronan. "It was raining so we basically just walked him around the Price Club Plaza to see how he was around people and a new environment. He did not shy away from the people or the new area so we were happy with that. We then took him to a field and played with him then ran away and hid where he could not see me. We wanted to see if he would use his nose to find me. He did very well. He ran in the same direction I ran and then started to use his nose once he got in the same general area I was in. It will take about a year to fully train him, but once he is trained he will be used to locate missing and lost people. He will also be used in criminal cases."

Scooby lives with MPO Greeves and his other working dog. Since he is a working dog, he is very friendly with MPO Greeves' working German Shepherd but does not really interact with the other dogs. The GSDs are trained to follow behind the bloodhounds on criminal cases, but according to Lt. Ronan, "none of our dogs 'play' with each other because each of the GSDs want to be the alpha dog."



Lt. Ronan with Charger

Scooby will primarily be trained by Lt. Ronan, MPO Greeves and PFC Thielen, but he will also have a lot of training with the bloodhounds from the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Department and the Maryland State Police. All of the dogs go through about 20 hours of training a month to keep their skills fresh. Although he is young, Scooby has shown a lot of potential and has already learned a lot.

"Scooby is about 18 inches high and weighs 45 pounds," said Lt. Ronan. "He is growing all the time and I am sure by the time you read this, he will weigh a few more pounds and be an inch bigger."

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

We would love for you to volunteer with us!

Please take a moment to read through this list to see if you would be interested in applying to become a Fairfax County Animal Services Division Volunteer.

- The minimum age for Volunteers is 16 years old.
- There is a required time commitment of 3 months and at least 8 hours a month to volunteer with us.
- You must pass a basic criminal background check before you will be called for an interview.
- Volunteers sign up for time slots in the areas in which they are trained.
- Each volunteer is trained for a minimum of two specialties of their choosing.
- The current specialties include:



Lead Small Mammal Assistant Mary socializing a rabbit

Dog Walker- *Assist in the socialization of dogs available for adoption by walking them in a specified area. Volunteers are encouraged to interact with dogs by talking, brushing, and playful contact.*

Kennel Assistant- *Assist caretakers with duties associated with animal care, cleaning cages, filling water bowls and taking animals out of cages to visit with potential adopters. This job also includes routine maintenance such as washing laundry, food pans, sweeping, etc.*

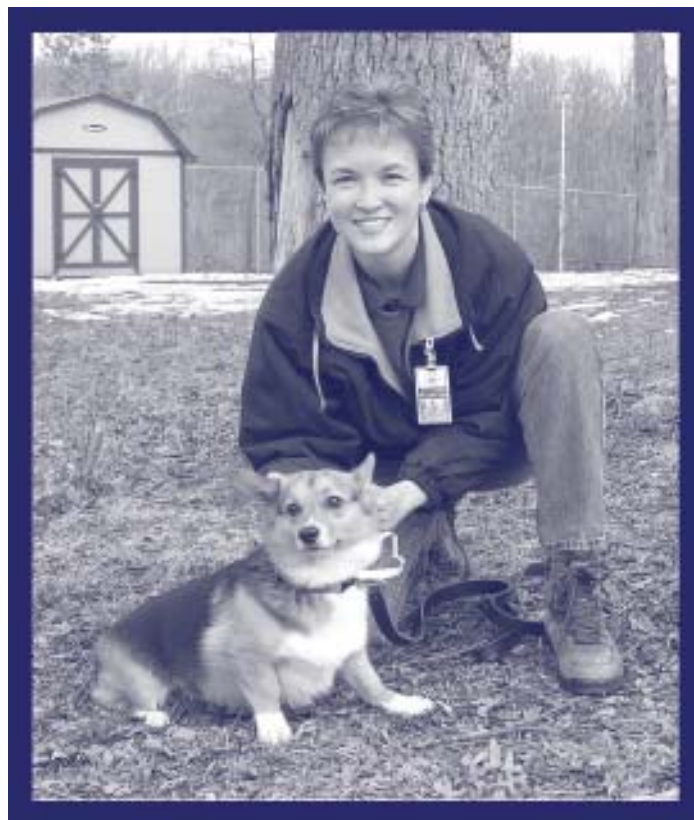
Grooming Assistant- *Assist caretakers with the grooming of animals at the shelter. Duties include bathing animals, clipping nails and other tasks related to the upkeep of an animal.*

Cat Socialization- Assist in the socialization of cats available for adoption by handling, brushing, speaking softly, and playful contact. Duties also include spot cleaning cages, replacing water, and cleaning litter boxes throughout the day.

Small Mammal Assistant- Assist caretakers with duties associated with rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and other small mammals. Duties include spot cleaning cages, replenishing water and hay, and sweeping around cages. Volunteer also interacts with the public and must have prior experience with small mammals.

Front Office Assistant- Assist the front office staff with such duties as updating lost and found reports, assisting citizens at the counter with the purchase of licenses, questions regarding adoption policies and other animal issues.

Administrative/Multimedia Assistant- Assist the Volunteer Services Coordinator with administrative duties in the Volunteer Office. Duties include assisting with website photography, scanning images, creating flyers, etc. Some graphic design background is preferred.



Dog Walker Jami exercising a dog

Events/Tours Assistant- Assist the Volunteer Services Coordinator with guided tours of the Shelter. Duties include providing groups of all ages and numbers detailed information about the Animal Services Division and acting as a representative of the Animal Services Division at public events. Volunteers with extroverted personalities are preferred.

Adoption Counselor Assistant (To be added)- Assist in the counseling process of the public. Duties include reviewing personality profiles of animals in the Shelter to properly match a citizen with a specific animal. Must have good communication skills.

Want an application?

Applications are available at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/ac/volunteer.htm>. Online applications are available in Adobe PDF and Microsoft Word format.

Where are they now?

Updates from Alumni of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Gracie's Story

*by Mary O'Malley
FCASD Volunteer*

Did you ever have a moment where you just knew something was meant to be? I had one of those moments when I first spotted Gracie at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. I had lost my female Irish Wolfhound back in March to bone cancer, and by October even my husband had conceded that the household was incomplete without a girl IW in it. Not that we don't love our boys, but there's something about a girl I just missed. And then I found myself at the shelter one day about a week after we had decided we might look for another girl. I had come in to evaluate a rabbit for a rescue group. Not a dog-related visit at all! While looking at the rabbit, Caretaker John Good kindly mentioned that we had an IW at the shelter, knowing, as most everyone who has talked to me about my dogs knows, that I just adore this breed. Moments later I was looking at those big brown eyes and I knew I had found my girl.



She was a stray who had only been at the shelter a few days, and she was in a run with a rather fearful German Shepherd. Both appeared to be unsocialized, and had scabs on their ears from fly bites, which led me to believe they had been outside dogs. Well, I had already rescued one unsocialized IW, so I wasn't too worried about taking on the socialization responsibility for another one. As long as I only had to overcome shyness, I was confident she could become a happy member of my family. Since I participate in lots of activities with my dogs, including therapy visits to nursing homes with Pets on Wheels, I didn't want to worry about a dog who was aggressive to people or other dogs and couldn't participate in everything the other dogs did. But she was clearly submissive to her Shepherd companion, which boded well for getting along with my other dogs, and it quickly became clear as I visited her and fed her treats every day that she was shy and submissive, but not fear-aggressive, as she never growled or stared at me or even curled her lip. Soon she started to

wag her tail whenever she saw me and would come up voluntarily to get her treats, and I felt pretty sure she was going to be just fine once I got her home.

Sure enough, Gracie adapted very quickly to the house, although things like slippery floors and stairs made her nervous at first. But unlike my earlier rescue, she eventually worked up her courage and took on her fears. Before long she was following me everywhere I went in the house, grinning all the way.

She and my two year-old (and might I mention 190 pound) IW, Shane, spent so much time together I nicknamed them the Bobbsey twins, and in no time at all they were wrestling and playing and sharing toys and having a grand ol' time together. She refrained from chasing the cats, and didn't try to break into the bunnies' areas of the house, both of which I was concerned about, and was friendly to every dog and human she met. I couldn't ask for more in terms of blending into the family.



Behavior-wise, despite her presumed history as an outside dog she had no accidents in the house, though I admit it's easier to housebreak a dog when she has other dogs to imitate. And for the first week, she chewed absolutely nothing she shouldn't have! Of course, once she started to relax she developed a taste for remote controls, then socks, shoes, and anything else that looked interesting in her reach. Since she has grown about two inches in height in the 6 weeks or so she's been here, her reach increases just about daily, but I can't complain that she's not acting like a perfectly normal, happy Irish Wolfhound pup, which is exactly what I hoped for.

Oh – and the rabbit I had come in to evaluate? He was taken by a rescue group. (A happy ending for all concerned]

Do you have an alumni story for us?

Mail your story to:

"Alumni Stories"
4500 West Ox Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Protect Your Pet From Winter's Woes

In many areas, winter is a season of bitter cold and numbing wetness. Help your pets remain happy and healthy during the colder months by following these simple guidelines.



- Don't leave dogs outdoors when the temperature drops. Most dogs, and all cats, are safer indoors, except when taken out for exercise. Regardless of the season, shorthaired, very young, or old dogs and *all* cats should never be left outside without supervision. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks.
- No matter what the temperature, windchill can threaten a pet's life. A dog or cat is happiest and healthiest when kept indoors. If your dog is an outdoor dog, he/she must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his/her body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls rather than metal; when the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.
- Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.
- The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe the feet with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates his/her mouth.
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that may attract animals and children. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze (and all household chemicals) out of reach. Better yet, use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol; if swallowed in small amounts, it will not hurt pets, wildlife, or your family.

Probably the best prescription for winter's woes is to keep your dog or cat inside with you and your family. The happiest dogs are those who are taken out frequently for walks and exercise but kept inside the rest of the time. Dogs and cats are social animals who crave human companionship. Your animal companions deserve to live indoors with you and your family.

Credit: The Humane Society of the United States

Get your Animal Friendly license plates today!

As a revenue sharing plate, \$ 15.00 of the \$ 25.00 fee is transferred to the **locality in which the vehicle is registered** for support of dog and cat sterilization programs.



To purchase your Animal Friendly license plates, please visit your local DMV office, or visit <http://www.dmv.state.va.us>

Get to Know...

Volunteer Susie Cooper

Where were you born?

Tulelake, California.

How long have you been an Animal Shelter Volunteer?

Almost three years.

What are some of your hobbies?

Gardening, travelling and eating out.

How many siblings do you have?

Two brothers and two sisters.

How many pets do you have?

Three: a 15 year-old cat named Babycakes, a four year-old cat named Bones and an 11 year-old Dachsund mix dog named Joey.

What kinds of animals have you had during your lifetime?

Cats, dogs and a hamster as a pet. I grew up on a small ranch in California and we also had rabbits, chickens, ducks and a pig.

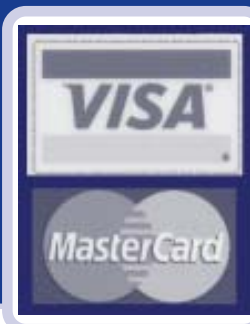
What are some interesting things about you that we might not know?

- I was born in one of the Japanese Internment camps established during WWII.
- I crunched numbers in the billions at the IRS.
- I love to visit the National Parks.
- I rode "Petey the mule" down the Grand Canyon.
- I hiked Haleakala crater in Hawaii.



Susie with an "Officer" at ASD

**Animal Services Division
now accepts
Visa and
Mastercard!**



ASD's

Pet

of the Month



Shelter Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 8AM to 6PM
Saturday, 8AM to 5PM

Adoption Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 10AM to 5PM
Saturday, 10AM to 4PM

The Shelter is closed Sundays,
Mondays and holidays.

Loopy

Loopy is a three year old
neutered male Minilop.
Won't you come and
adopt this great house
bunny?



Fairfax County Police Department

Animal Services Division

4500 West Ox Road

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

(703) 830-1100 (Shelter)

(703) 691-2131 (Animal Control Dispatch)

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals



Did you forget to buy your county dog license?

Dog licenses can be purchased at the Animal Shelter or at the Government Center.